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From the Director

Arnie Olsen

One of the most common questions I get when I encounter people at special events, meetings, or just while walking down the street is "How's that new building coming?" or "Are you still going to be able to get the Capitol Hill Mall property for your new Montana History Center?"

As with any significant project, there are many players, and all desire a positive outcome. At the Society, we recognize that we must proceed both boldly—to seize the marvelous opportunity with which we have been presented—and cautiously—to make sure we are good stewards of the state and private resources entrusted to us.

Our collections are, after all, priceless. The Society's Russell collection for example, is of incalculable value—just look at the recent record sale of a C. M. Russell painting for over five million dollars. And that is just one of our many collections. Our first responsibility, then, is to assure that a new building can house these collections safely.

At the moment, we are engaged in what is generically called "due diligence." This simply means we are studying the thirteen-acre Capitol Hill Mall property and its structures carefully before determining whether we should try to negotiate a purchase. Contracts have been signed for a land survey, title reports, environmental/ hazardous materials assessments, a structural analysis, roof inspection, mechanical/electrical system analysis, architectural analysis, and engineering analysis. In addition, both the Society and the seller are interviewing appraisers, so we can attain a fair estimate of the property's value.

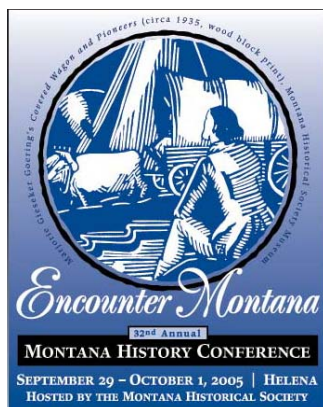
I expect all of the studies to be completed by late October, at which point negotiations can begin, assuming a positive outcome from the various reports. In the meantime, the Montana History Foundation is gearing up for a major fund-raising campaign to make the proposed new Montana History Center possible.

As the planning and excitement continues to build for this important project, we continue to fulfill the mission of the Montana Historical Society. Renewed interest in defining "quality education" in Montana has highlighted our outreach to students and teachers. For example, we are producing a set of DVDs using federal grant money for schools to cover often-neglected twentieth-century historical topics. The Office of Public Instruction has also contracted with us to create a new educational footlocker focusing on the tribes' transition to reservation life—a small contribution toward fulfilling Montana's constitutional requirement for "Indian Education for All."

Nor have we forgotten our responsibilities toward our researchers, museum visitors, and other audiences. We will soon open a section of a major exhibit on the native cultures present in Montana when Lewis and Clark arrived in 1805. We are pursuing major upgrades to our website that will make accessible thousands of digital images from our collections. We have also recently completed the most successful Northwest Rendezvous of Art event in our history.

As an aside, I must commend the Society's staff, who produce such projects under tremendous pressure and in crowded conditions. After all, the above list includes only a few examples of the Society's ongoing activities. Every day sees many other examples of significant public service and preservation efforts. All are attributable to our wonderful staff, our many great volunteers, our committed Board of Trustees, and our supporters across the state and nation. We appreciate all of you who sustain us with your purchases, donations, memberships, and moral support. We have an exciting future—and we will keep you abreast of new developments as they occur.

Montana History Conference Returns to Helena



The history of Montana holds many surprises for the curious. Mark your calendars for the Thirty-second Annual Montana History Conference, September 29 thru October 1, 2005, and encounter Montana in all its richness. Conference events are scheduled for the Best Western Great Northern Hotel in Helena and the Montana Historical Society, with other tours and performances at historic Helena locations.

Thursday workshops will include classes on caring for historic costumes and textiles, managing archival collections, and the ways communities can promote themselves using their historic resources. Thursday night Historian Frederick E. Hoxie from the University of Illinois will present the keynote address, "Learning from a Bicentennial: What Lewis and Clark Can Teach Us about the Old West, and the New." Hoxie is best known for his work in Indian history, particularly the history of the Crow people.

Friday and Saturday attendees will have the chance to learn about the region's diverse culinary traditions, humans' changing attitudes toward grizzly bears, the tortuous history of water rights, and the grim effects of polio on generations of young Montanans.

Conference attendees will also have an opportunity to enjoy history's lighter side with a tour of Helena's ghostly haunts and a riveting performance of historical ghost stories accompanied by the haunting music of composer Philip Aaberg. This exciting mix of scholarship and entertainment will make you see the state's people and landscapes in brand new ways. For more information about conference events, speakers, lodging, and travel arrangements, call 406-444-4794 or visit us online at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/HistoryConference/histconf05.asp>. Space is limited for some events, so people interested in attending are advised to register early.

Six Artists Hired to Paint Murals for Society's New Exhibit

The Society has commissioned murals by six different artists for its upcoming exhibit, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown*. The murals will convey the richness of Montana's native lifeways at the time of Lewis and Clark.

Wildlife artist Scott Hayes of Augusta, Montana, will create a bas relief-carved group of bison within the confines of a buffalo pound. In addition, Montana Historical Society curator emeritus Bob Morgan will paint a mural depicting the abundant wildlife prevalent on the plains and lower elevations in 1800.

Because *Neither Empty Nor Unknown* focuses on the daily lives of native people, the Society particularly wanted to feature Indian artists' perspectives in the exhibit; thus, four of the muralists have tribal affiliations. Formerly of Billings, John Potter, a member of the Anishnabe (Chippewa/Ojibwe) tribe, is painting a mural of a native plant harvesting camp west of the divide. The mural highlights the importance of women's work to



John Potter, painting a mural for the Society's forthcoming exhibit, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown*

tribal survival. Anishnabe artist Joe LaFontaine of Helena will create a night sky scene for the exhibit's vision quest area and a series of six smaller paintings for the section on contemporary Indian life. Blackfeet artist Gary Schildt will paint two smaller paintings, one of a sweat lodge and another of bands gathering camas. He will also create a mural depicting Indians breaking camp after a major gathering. Finally, Northern Cheyenne artist Chris Rowland of Helena will paint a mural showing a buffalo processing camp. The mural will detail the work involved in butchering and drying meat and the skinning and tanning of hides.

The initial section of *Neither Empty Nor Unknown* will open on September 24. This section introduces the nine Indian and four European and American nations whose territorial aspirations were in conflict at the time of Lewis and Clark. The remainder of the 4,500-square-foot exhibit is scheduled to open in 2006.

Rendezvous 2005 a Huge Success

Held in Helena, August 18-21, 2005, the Twenty-seventh Annual Western Rendezvous of Art won rave reviews from patrons and artists alike. Record attendance was set at all events, including a sellout of six hundred for the Quick Draw on Saturday. In addition, the event successfully raised more money than ever for the Montana Historical Society and the Helena Civic Center, the two organizations that cosponsor the event.



Spring Meadow—Frog Stalkers, an oil painting by Jim Morgan, won this year's Rendezvous Legacy Award. It is currently on exhibit in the MHS lobby.

Total sales including the Quick Draw auction at the historic Sieben Ranch and the Saturday evening sale at the Civic Center were \$492,450 compared to \$324,025 last year. The total also surpassed the record set in 2003 of \$400,475 for the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rendezvous. The Quick Draw alone brought in \$108,650, which was up about \$20,000 from last year.

Expenses are still being determined, but the Society and the Civic Center each expect to receive over \$40,000 for their share of the proceeds. The Society uses its money for new art acquisitions for the museum and the Civic Center for needed improvements to the historic building and interior.

Rendezvous Award Winners

- **John Scott People's Choice Award:** Greg Beecham, *Out of the Main Stream*, and Rosetta, *Red Fox*

- **Ben Stahl Artists Choice Award** for overall best collection of work at the Rendezvous (voted on by NWR members only): Huihan Liu

- **Awards of Excellence:** Carolyn Anderson, *Saubert's Fur Coat*, Paul Mullally, *Madonna Angelica*, Jim Morgan, *Waiting for Caddis—Rainbow Trout*, Matt Smith, *Runoff in Flat Tire Canyon*, and George Strickland, *When Mountains Are Gold*

- **Heritage Award:** Don Prechtel, *Punitive Expedition*

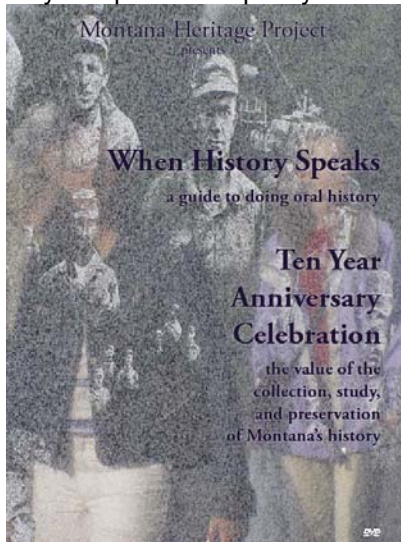
- **Legacy Award** (chosen by the Montana Historical Society staff with the art piece added to the Society's permanent collection): Jim Morgan, *Spring Meadow Sandhill Cranes*

Montana Heritage Project's New School Year Off to Strong Start

The Montana Historical Society's Montana Heritage Project continues to grow as an important voice for place-based education. Two new teachers join the Montana Heritage Project for the 2005-2006 year as affiliates: Hali Kirby-Ertel at Gardiner High School and Gwen Couture at Polson High School.

The Project, which works intensively with a core of teachers in high schools across Montana, also continues to share methods and ideas with a broader audience. For the third consecutive year, Project teachers are providing a strand of presentations at the annual MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, October 20-21, 2005, in Missoula. This year, the Project offers eight sessions illustrating how close reading and an analysis of regional literature provides a critical base for community research.

Project students will also have a chance to share their work this fall. On September 24, in a session titled "The Next Generation of Montana Writers," three Montana Heritage Project students will read at the Montana Committee for the Humanities annual Festival of the Book. Their essays grew from project work they completed this past year.



Finally, the Montana Heritage Project recently produced *When History Speaks*, a video guide to planning and implementing oral history projects. The forty-minute DVD, created in partnership with the Library of Congress and the Montana Historical Society, will be distributed at without charge to interested Montana teachers.

When History Speaks covers all the steps to a successful oral history project: planning a project, doing preliminary research, forming a set of questions, choosing equipment, conducting an interview, using a microphone effectively, and transcribing and archiving final products. The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, which funds the Project, also provided special funding for the DVD project.

To request a copy of *When History Speaks*, email katherine@edheritage.org or write P.O. Box 672, St. Ignatius, Montana 59865. A text version of the DVD is available for free download on the internet:

http://www.edheritage.org/HE_03win/guide_vets_oral_history.htm.

Society's Volunteers Busier than Ever

The 130 members of the Friends of the Montana Historical Society, the Society's volunteer organization, have been busier than ever this summer. Among other projects, the Friends have helped the Research Center cross check its pamphlet collection against the library catalog. As always, this summer's Rendezvous of Western Art also relied on a huge contribution of time by Society volunteers. Sixty volunteers donated 250 hours to make sure the weekend was a success.

In addition to their hard work, the Friends recently donated \$1000 to the Society: \$700 to help fund the exhibit, "Neither Empty nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark"; \$250 to fund a scholarship fund for Camp Discovery, the Society's hands-on summer history camp; and \$50 to buy new headphones for the Society's oral history program.

The Friends are always looking for new members. Particularly needed are volunteers interested leading guided tours for the students and others who visit the museum. For more information about volunteering at the Society, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

Society Offers Programs across the State

The Society has expanded its statewide presence by offering new public programs in towns across Montana. Presenters from the Society's Research Center have been traveling the state, giving workshops on genealogy, oral history, and caring for archival collections. They have also created a menu of historical presentations on topics ranging from Lewis and Clark to water rights.

Any organization in the state is welcome to request a speaker. Staff has already made presentations to such diverse groups as the Helena Unitarians, the Montana Four by Four (4 x 4) Association, Alpha Delta Kappa (International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators), Rotary, and a number of libraries across the state. Most recently, the Society sent speakers for a series of five public presentations in West Yellowstone.

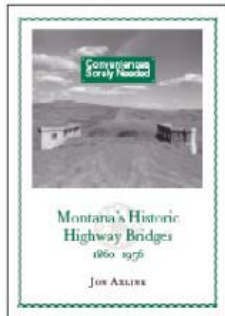
A list of available programs is posted on the Research Center's section of the Society website: http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/library/rc_workshops.asp#Programs.

Interested parties can also contact Rich Aarstad at either 406-444-1988 or raarstad@mt.gov.

History Happenings

In cooperation with Salish educator Julie Cajene, the Society has created a new footlocker to help schoolchildren learn about the effects of reservations, allotment, and boarding schools on the traditional cultures of Montana Indians. Funding to create the new footlocker, **To Learn a New Way**, came from the Montana Office of Public Instruction. The Society currently has eighteen footlockers available to the public for use on a two-week rotating schedule. Topics range from Lewis and Clark in Montana to the Montana home front during World War II. For a list of available footlockers, ordering information, and to download accompanying curriculum material, visit

<http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/footlocker/default.asp>



Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges 1860-1956, by Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline is forthcoming from the Montana Historical Society Press in October 2005. This book offers a tour of Montana's many historic bridges. Today, these bridges are a visible, rarely appreciated, and fast disappearing part of the state's historic landscape. The stories they tell about Montana's history shed light on the dynamics of Montana's development in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. More information about this title is available at

<http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/press/forthcoming.asp>.

This fall the Montana Historical Society Press will **publish its first audiobook** in cooperation with Sweetgrass Music. The audiobook is a collaboration between the Society's interpretive historian Ellen Baumler and internationally famous composer, musician, and Chester, Montana, native Philip Aaberg. Aaberg, who composed original music to accompany the ghostly tales, contacted Baumler about the project after reading her recently published book, *Beyond Spirit Tailings*. The pair will premiere their collaboration on October 1 at a concert/reading during the Montana History Conference in Helena.

The Society is pleased to welcome **Karen Bjork** and **Jeff Malcomson**, both of whom join the Research Center as government records archivists. Funding for these two new positions came from the 2005 legislature, which recognized the importance of making state records more accessible to the public. Karen Bjork comes to the Society from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she was employed as an intern in the archives of Johnson Controls. She completed her Masters of Library and Information Science in May 2005 and also holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wollongong in Australia. Jeff Malcomson has worked as an archivist for eight years, most recently for the Arizona History and Archives Division in Phoenix. He holds a master's degree in history from Colorado State University. Both Karen and Jeff will begin work in the Research Center in early September.

The Society's Museum has a **new family activity guide** to the Montana Homeland Gallery, the Society's permanent exhibit on the history of Montana. The twelve-page booklet provides activities for each of the five sections of the exhibit: "First People"; "Indians' World"; "New Country"; "Boom Years"; and "Hard Times." "A Family Guide to the Montana Homeland Gallery" was designed to make viewing the exhibit more engaging and interactive, particularly for children. Copies of the exhibit guide will be available at the entrance to the gallery.



On June 12-15, 2005, State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth and Cultural Records Manager Damon Murdo visited a University of Montana and Bureau of Indian Affairs archaeological field school to help **excavate a bison kill site near the Tongue River**. The site consists of a large scatter of bone and lithic artifacts.



Excavation of bison bone at a kill site near the Tongue River.

Society Registrar Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney and Curator George Oberst recently returned from Hysham, where they picked up a collection donated by Shirley Manning Mouat, daughter of Dave and Ruth Manning. Dave Manning served in the Montana legislature from 1932 through 1985. He was the longest serving legislator in Montana's history, and, for a period, the longest serving legislator in the United States. The collection includes gowns worn by Ruth Manning to the inaugural balls of eleven governors, political memorabilia, 1964 territorial centennial celebration items, papers, and photographs.

Melisa Kaiser Synness, who works part time as grant manager for the State Historic Preservation Office, has added seven hours to her weekly schedule to work in Membership Services. The Society has also received a small grant from the Lewis and Clark Community Foundation to add hours to Volunteer Coordinator **Delight Sullivan**, who will use the time to organize the Society's book talks, Pages in History. Pages in History brings readers together for presentations and moderated discussions on significant books in or about Montana history.

Clint Attebery has been hired as the editorial assistant to the Montana Historical Society Press and *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. Clint recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Carroll College and formerly served as an intern in both the archives and publications programs at the Society. Amy Baird, who now works fulltime for the Society's membership program, previously held the position.

Clark Whitehorn, editor of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* and manager of the Society's Publications Program, is leaving the Montana Historical Society to become editor-in-chief of University of New Mexico Press in Albuquerque. **Charlene Porsild**, director of the Research Center, has also resigned her position; she will be moving with her husband Clark to New Mexico. Lory Morrow, director of the Photograph Archives, and Molly Holz, managing editor of *Montana*, will serve as acting program managers of the Research Center and Publications Program respectively, while the Society conducts a national search to fill the vacant positions. The positions have been announced and the search will close on October 28, 2005.

Casey Pallister has won the 2005 *Montana The Magazine of Western History's* **Merrill G. Burlingame—K. Ross Toole award**. Named in honor of two of Montana's most influential historians, this annual award recognizes the best article-length manuscript written by an undergraduate or graduate student on any western history topic. Pallister's entry, " 'Montana Oiyé': The Journey of a Japanese American from the Big Sky to the Battlefields of Europe," is an excerpt from his undergraduate honors thesis at Carroll College.



Toston Bridge, one of four Montana properties added to the National Register this summer

Beth Campbell has been hired as the Society's Fiscal Officer, replacing Dick Morrow. Beth comes to the Society from the Department of Revenue, where she worked for sixteen years, the last four as an accountant.

Two houses, a barn, and a bridge recently gained recognition for their historical value when the **National Register of Historic Places** added them to the nation's list of properties worthy of preservation. The properties are the Gilpatrick-Root House in Helena; the Toston Bridge, which spans the Missouri River near Toston; the Abraham and

Carrie Erb House in Laurel; and the Gebo Barn near Fromberg. The Montana Land Title Association Foundation funded the Gebo Barn nomination.

The Western Writers of America have named Judy Daubenmier a finalist for her article “**Empty Saddles: Desertion from the Dashing U.S. Cavalry**” in the short nonfiction category of their **annual Spur Award**. Daubenmier’s article appeared in the fall 2004 issue of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. According to Daubenmier, desertion happened so frequently in the frontier army that such cases filled the dockets of general courts-martial and kept many units below strength.

Summer in Helena began with the Secret Garden Tour Sunday, June 5. The Original Governor’s Mansion Restoration Society hosted the fundraiser, which was sponsored by Mountain West Bank. About 250 people visited six of Helena’s most beautiful gardens and also toured the **Original Governor’s Mansion**, a house museum administered by the Montana Historical Society. At the Mansion a lunch fundraiser, raffle, music, free seminars by garden experts, and a colorful garden marketplace added a festive tone to the day. The Secret Garden Tour is one of the mansion’s two annual fundraising events. The other is the Holiday Home Tour, now in its twenty-fifth year. The 2005 Home Tour is scheduled for Sunday, December 4.

The Research Center bids farewell to Maureen Connors, the Society’s first **Sobotka Intern**. While gaining valuable work experience with special collections, Maureen helped the Research Center accomplish some key cataloging goals. One of her primary projects involved processing the F. Jay Haynes Architectural Drawings Collection. This collection, which includes drawings of many of the original buildings in Yellowstone National Park, is now fully processed and searchable online through the Northwest Digital Archives, <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/>. Additionally, Maureen catalogued a hundred maps and approximately 7,000 photographs, including the Burton K. Wheeler Photograph Collection. The August and Mary Sobotka Internship program is a paid summer internship funded through the generosity of the August and Mary Sobotka Education Trust Fund.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs are **free, open to the public**, and held at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts.

September 8, 6:30 p.m.: **A Horse, of Course.** Join us for a presentation by Harvey “Hoot” Gibson as he talks about the origin of the horses obtained by Lewis and Clark.

September 22, 6:30 p.m.: **Pages in History Reader’s Forum.** Join in a discussion of *My Hutterite Life*, by Lisa Marie Stahl, moderated by Avone Holmes.

September 24, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: **Montana Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting.** Finlen Hotel, Butte

September 29-October 1: **“Encounter Montana: The Thirty-second Annual Montana History Conference.”** Helena Great Northern Town Center

October 13, 6:30 p.m.: **Behind Beyond Spirit Tailings.** Society Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler will share with you her sources behind her ghost stories and historic haunts.

October 27, 6:30 p.m.: **Pages in History Reader’s Forum.** Join in a discussion of *From Poplar to Papua: Montana’s 163rd Infantry Regiment in World War II*, with author Martin Kidston and members of the 163rd.

November 10, 6:30 p.m.: **Christmas Cards through Montana History.** Museum Director Susan Near will look at the season’s greetings of Christmases past.

*November 12, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.: **Making Christmas Ornaments.*** Children of all ages are invited to join Society Education staff to learn how Montanans traditionally decorated their trees and to try their hands at crafting historical ornaments.

November 17, 6:30 p.m.: To Be Announced.

*December 4, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: **Twenty-fifth Annual Original Governor's Mansion Holiday Home Tour.***

*December 8, 6:30: **Opening Reception, *Splendid Was the Trail: Photographs of the National Forests* by K. D. Swan.*** Roast marshmallows, make s'mores, sip cocoa, and enjoy the photographs of Forest Service photographer K. D. Swan, whose work is on display in the Society's Reflections Gallery as part of the National Forest Service's hundredth Anniversary.

*December 3, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.: **Prancer.*** Enjoy this free showing of a favorite Christmas movie and cheer on a girl's search as she tries to help a lost Prancer find Santa Claus.

*December 10, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.: **The Bishop's Wife.*** In this 1947 classic movie, Loretta Young is the Bishop's (David Niven) wife who prays for help in completing a new cathedral. Angel Cary Grant appears and the magic begins!

*December 15, 6:30 p.m.: **Christmastime in Montana.*** Society Historian Dave Walter shares stories of Montana Christmases—and looks at what these stories reveal about Montana history.

Hours

Montana's Museum

Through September 30: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. \$5 per adult, \$1 per student, \$12 per family

October 1 through April 30: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed on Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

Museum Store

Through September 30: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. No admission fee.

October 1 through April 30: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 6:30 p.m. Closed on Sundays and holidays.

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holiday weekends. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Capitol Guided Tours

Through September 30: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 2:00 p.m.

October 1 through April 30: Saturdays only, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 1:00 p.m. Self-guided tour brochures available at the security desk on the first floor upon request. Call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Through September 30: Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

October 1 through April 30: Saturdays only, noon-4:00 p.m.

Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m. \$4 per adult, \$1 per student, \$10 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.